POISON IVY™

37

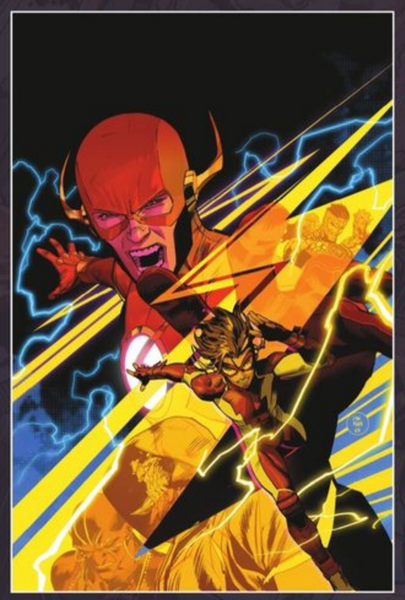
13+ TEEN

WILSON
ILHAN
PRIANTO

DON'T MISS THE OPENING ROUNDS THIS OCTOBER

JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE OMEGA ACT SPECIAL

TITANS #28



THE FLASH #26

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #12

SUPERMAN #31

THE ACTION INTENSIFIES IN NOVEMBER AND BEYOND!

Some of the **worst** nights of your life begin like any other.

You go to **work.**

You think about the pile of **dishes** waiting for you in the sink at home--

CREEAK

--you think about making **dinner.** You think about weekend plans.

Most of us go about our lives with our heads **down.**

YOU BE *CAREFUL* WITH THAT ARM, FRANK. NO *FISTFIGHTS* FOR AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS.

YOU GOT IT, DR. THOMPKINS.

AMBULANCE BAY

MEDICAL WASTE

AND *NO SMOKING* EITHER! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU BACK HERE WITH A *BLOOD CLOT!*

Yeah, yeah, yeah...

These ***boys.*** Always getting into ***trouble...***

That's why there's no point in trying to **predict** the personal disasters that punctuate our existence.

Because no matter how you **prepare,** they will sneak up on you when you're just shuffling from one task to the **next,** minding your own **business.**

Oh, shoot... I forgot to set the timer on the slow cooker before I left the house this morning...

?!

HOOM

Fate doesn't make an **announcement** when it's about to blow the doors off your entire **life.**

Hello...?

But still.

IS SOMEONE THERE?

AH!

That doesn't mean you won't look back and think, I should have **known.**

SEATTLE.
EARLIER THAT DAY.

JANET... little Janet-from-HR...

...YOU'VE GOT TO WAKE UP AND *EAT* SOMETHING...

HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE? HAS SHE *SAID* ANYTHING?

SOME-TIMES SHE MUMBLES IN HER SLEEP. BUT SHE HASN'T WOKEN UP.

YOU WERE RIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE MADE HER A ***PRIORITY.***

THE ***ORDER*** COULD HAVE WAITED... ***EVERYTHING*** COULD HAVE WAITED...

I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HER TO A DOCTOR IN ***GOTHAM,*** NO MATTER THE ***RISKS...***

YOUR TWINGES OF ***CONSCIENCE*** ALWAYS COME A BEAT ***TOO LATE,*** I'VE NOTICED.

WE ***CAN'T*** MOVE HER NOW. THAT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ***KILL*** HER.

LEAVING HER HERE WILL KILL HER TOO. JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE ***SLOWLY.***

I'VE ***FAILED*** HER SO MUCH ALREADY, PETER... I'M NOT GOING TO FAIL HER ***AGAIN...***

HI, HELLO. *SPROUT* HERE. I, *uh*--

WE MADE *JANET* SOME OF OUR SPECIAL *GREEN DRINK.* IT'S GOT CELERY, GINGER ROOT, BURDOCK LEAVES, PINEAPPLE JUICE--

--IT MAKES YOU *WISH* YOU WERE DEAD, BUT AFTER THAT, YOU FEEL *BETTER.*

THANKS. THAT'S *EXACTLY* THE KIND OF HEALTH-FOOD CRAP JANET *LOVES.*

AND SPROUT--

--listen-- *APOLOGIZE* TO THE OTHERS FOR ME. TELL THEM I'M *SORRY* ABOUT THE WAY I ACTED YESTERDAY.

I WAS SO *OBSESSED* WITH GETTING *REVENGE* AGAINST WHOEVER SOLD ME OUT TO THE *GOTHAM POLICE* THAT I LOST SIGHT OF WHAT'S REALLY *IMPORTANT.*

AND NOW *JANET* IS PAYING THE *PRICE.*

... I guess I just have to accept that I may never know the truth.

I'LL TELL THEM.

TO BE HONEST, NOBODY KNOWS *WHAT* TO EXPECT WHEN YOU START TALKING. YOU COULD SAY PRETTY MUCH *ANYTHING* AND WE WOULD FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT SEEM *NORMAL.*

... I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT WORKS WHEN YOU'RE THE *MESSIAH.*

I guess that's **true.**

But what does that say about **me?**

HERE, JAN-- TRY TO DRINK THIS--

THERE WE GO.

IF WE CAN JUST GET SOME ***FLUIDS*** IN YOU, YOU MIGHT START TO FEEL--

--JANET?

SHE WON'T EVEN DRINK IT!

THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S ***DYING,*** PAMELA.

YOU CHOSE JANET'S FATE WHEN YOU DECIDED TO HOLD AN ***INQUISITION*** INSTEAD OF TAKING HER TO THE ***HOSPITAL.*** SHE'S NOT THE ***FIRST*** VICTIM OF YOUR CRUSADE.

Nor the ***last,*** I suspect.

DON'T ***TALK*** TO ME LIKE THAT.

I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN UNDER ***EXTREMELY WEIRD*** CIRCUMSTANCES. I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO ALL THIS ***ALONE.*** WORK ALONE, TAKE ***RISKS*** ALONE. I DIDN'T--

--I didn't expect to--

--TO END UP *CARING* ABOUT SO MANY *PEOPLE.*

BUT NONE OF THAT *MATTERS* NOW.

BECAUSE ACCORDING TO *YOU,* I'VE *FAILED* THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT, AND IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE TO *FIX* ANYTHING.

It's always about *you,* isn't it.

Always about you. We can't even ***die*** as the main characters of our ***own*** stories.

AAAAH...

SPLASH

I go into the **woods** without a **plan.**

I'm going to look for a doctor.

I think.

Honestly, the **panic**-- the thought of **losing** someone I've come to **rely** on so much--

--makes it hard to **focus.**

I tell myself, there will be doctors in **Gotham.**

I tell myself, I'll do whatever it takes. Begging. **Threats.**

It shouldn't be this **hard.**

Don't the weird and the undesirable and the **inconvenient** deserve the same **care** every-body **else** gets?

Anyway. Questions for another time.

Today is a **smash-and-grab.**

Santa Fe

I'm trying to remember the **name** of that doctor all the **shady characters** of my acquaintance go to see when they're injured.

The one who treats **anybody** in need.

Johnson? Thompson?

I don't **want** to go around kidnapping doctors, of course. But this is an **emergency.**

I think I'm in the right place, but I can't be **sure.**

I haven't been to a doctor in **years.**

You get **squeamish** about these things after a doctor you **trusted** turns you into a **monster.**

Hnngh-- how much farther-- to the doctor's office--

IT'S RIGHT ***HERE,*** YOU DIPSTICK. WE JUST GOTTA GO AROUND BACK THROUGH THE ***ALLEYWAY*** SO NOBODY ***SPOTS*** US--

Well, well, **well.**

Looks like I **am** in the right place after all.

LATER.

I follow the kids to the back entrance and put down **roots.**

There's got to be a **shift change** eventually.

I wait for the **right moment,** without really being sure what the right moment might **look** like.

And all the time, I think, I could already be too late.

Peter was **right.** I don't take care of my people. I've **failed.** I've failed Janet, I've failed Harley, I've failed **Bella...**

...but I will not fail **tonight.**

YOU BE CAREFUL WITH THAT **ARM,** FRANK. NO ***FISTFIGHTS*** FOR AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS.

YOU GOT IT, DR. THOMPKINS.

Thompkins. That was it. That's her name.

I wish there was some way to apologize in **advance** for what's about to happen.

Oh, shoot... I forgot to set the timer on the slow cooker before I left the house this morning...

Hello...?

IS SOMEONE THERE?

THWAP

HRRK!

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE-- WHAT'S GOING ON HERE--

SORRY FOR THE ***ABRUPT*** INTRODUCTION, DR. THOMPKINS.

BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME WITH ***ME.***

I HAVE A ***FRIEND*** WHO NEEDS ***URGENT*** MEDICAL ATTENTION.

THIS ISN'T A VERY *NICE* WAY TO ASK FOR MY *HELP*, YOUNG LADY.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST BRING YOUR FRIEND *HERE?* YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN *SAFE.* YOU *BOTH* WOULD HAVE BEEN SAFE.

SHE'S TOO *WEAK* TO BE MOVED.

AND THE *POLICE* WOULD BE ALL OVER US AS SOON AS WE LEFT YOUR CLINIC.

STAY

I CAN SEE *WHY* NOW THAT YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR *FACE.*

YOU'RE *POISON IVY.*

A *LOT* OF PEOPLE ARE OUT LOOKING FOR YOU, YOU KNOW. THE FAMOUS *ECOTERRORIST.*

IF THAT'S WHAT THE *AUTHORITIES* WANT TO CALL ME, *FINE.*

SOMEONE HAS TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE *EARTH,* EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT *POPULAR.*

"WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE EARTH?" MURDERING CIVILIANS WHO ARE OUT SHOPPING FOR *GROCERIES?*

THAT WASN'T *ME.*

Well, WHETHER IT *WAS* OR IT *WASN'T,* I WISH YOU'D DONE THIS *DIFFERENTLY.*

WE COULD HAVE SORTED SOMETHING OUT. I'M NOT OPPOSED TO MAKING *HOUSE CALLS.* BUT NOW THERE'S GOING TO BE A *MESS.*

A MESS? WHO'S GOING TO CAUSE A MESS? WHO ELSE KNOWS I'M EVEN *HERE?*

HIM.

Well, HELLO TO YOU TOO.

SKRK

By now, he knows my playbook, and I know **his.**

SLOP

SHAM

But we still have to get the **formalities** out of the way before we can have a **discussion.**

WOOSH

THUNK

SAVE YOUR *EXCUSES.* THEY MEAN *NOTHING.*

YOU'VE CROSSED A *LINE.*

Apparently so.

YOU SAID YOU WOULD *DISBAND* THE ORDER OF THE GREEN KNIGHT. YOU *LIED* TO ME.

NOT ON PURPOSE. I HAD *NO CHOICE.*

I NEEDED *HELP* DEFENDING *MARSHVIEW* FROM THE GCPD.

BECAUSE *SOMEONE* BROKE THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF THE *GREEN--*

--AND RATTED ME OUT TO THE *COPS.*

I DON'T SUPPOSE IT WAS *YOU?*

NO. I WOULD NEVER GO BACK ON MY *WORD.*

UNLIKE *SOME.*

LISTEN CAREFULLY.

DR. THOMPKINS IS *OFF-LIMITS.*

MY FRIEND IS *DYING.* NOTHING IS OFF-LIMITS.

WHAT YOU'VE *NEVER* UNDERSTOOD IS THIS--

--EVEN THOUGH I *FAIL* THEM ON A REGULAR BASIS, I WILL GO JUST AS FAR FOR *MY* PEOPLE AS YOU WOULD FOR *YOURS.*

LOYALTY IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

I CAN'T LET YOU *KIDNAP* FIRST RESPONDERS. EVEN IN AN *EMERGENCY.*

ENOUGH. STOP ROLLING AROUND IN THE *MUD* LIKE A PAIR OF *DELINQUENT TEENAGERS.*

NO ONE IS KIDNAPPING *ANYBODY.*

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALL THIS CHILDISH ONE-UPMANSHIP.

A *PATIENT* NEEDS MY *HELP.* SO I'LL BE LEAVING WITH *MS. POISON IVY.*

IN MY *MANY* YEARS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE, I'VE SEEN IT *ALL.* EVERY MANNER OF WOUND, ILLNESS, POWERS AND ABILITIES THAT CAN'T BE EXPLAINED--

--AND BY NOW I KNOW AN *HONEST FACE* WHEN I SEE ONE.

THIS LOVELY YOUNG WOMAN WON'T *HURT* ME.

WILL YOU?

OF COURSE NOT. YOU HAVE MY *WORD.*

WHICH IS NOT AS *WORTHLESS* AS *HE* SAYS IT IS.

Despite, you know, appearances to the *contrary.*

THIS IS A *BAD* IDEA.

POISON IVY CAN'T BE TRUSTED. SHE'LL *BREAK* HER PROMISES AS SOON AS KEEPING THEM GETS *INCONVENIENT.*

YOUR CONCERNS ARE *NOTED.*

BUT LIFE IS A SERIES OF *RISKS.*

AND WHEN YOU GET TO BE *MY* AGE-- WHEN THERE'S MORE LIFE *BEHIND* YOU THAN IN FRONT OF YOU-- YOU GET TO TAKE *BIGGER* RISKS.

BECAUSE WHAT'S LEFT *TO LOSE?*

MIDNIGHT.

I lead Dr. Thompkins back through the forest.

It doesn't seem to **frighten** her.

I don't seem to frighten her.

She's braver than most **heroes** I've ever met. Hell, she's braver than most **criminals.**

But she does ask an **awful lot** of **questions.**

WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE? I DON'T REMEMBER AN OLD-GROWTH FOREST LIKE THIS OUTSIDE **GOTHAM.**

THAT'S BECAUSE THIS FOREST *ISN'T* OUTSIDE GOTHAM.

THIS IS A ***SHORTCUT.*** THROUGH THE ***GREEN.***

I'M SORRY-- A SHORTCUT THROUGH A **COLOR?**

THE GREEN IS THE NEXUS OF ALL ***PLANT LIFE.***

THE MEMORY OF EVERY ***TREE,*** THE LIFE FORCE OF EVERY ***SEED,*** THE ENERGY OF EVERY LEAF THAT TURNS ***SUNLIGHT*** INTO ***FLESH.***

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ***SHORTCUTS?***

I FREED A ***TIDAL MARSH*** FROM A ***MONSTER,*** AND AS A SIGN OF GRATITUDE, IT CREATED A SHORTCUT BETWEEN ITSELF AND WHEREVER ***ELSE*** I MIGHT WANT TO GO, WHICH IN THIS CASE IS ***SEATTLE.***

Oh.

Well, THANK YOU FOR ***EXPLAINING.*** IT'S HARD FOR US OLD FOLKS TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE ***NEW TRENDS.***

Your ***ViewTubes*** and your ***plant nexuses...***

OUTSIDE SEATTLE.
NOT LONG AFTERWARD.

ZZZZZ
HICK ZZZ

PETER? I'M *BACK.*
THIS IS *DR. THOMPKINS.* SHE'S HERE TO *HELP.*
Yes, fine, hello.
I *was* awake, I swear.

NO NEED TO GET UP FOR ME, YOUNG MAN. MY *KNEES* STILL WORK.
IT ISN'T YOUR *KNEES* I WORRY ABOUT, MADAM.
MY SKIN SECRETES *PHYTOTOXINS.* I WOULDN'T WANT TO *MURDER* YOU INADVERTENTLY.
I TRY TO *LIMIT* ANY MANSLAUGHTER TO PEOPLE I DON'T *LIKE.*

YOU'RE A *VERY* STRANGE COLLECTION OF INDIVIDUALS-- *hmm.*
LIPS *CYANOTIC...* BLACK DISCHARGE FROM THE NOSE...
... I'VE NEVER SEEN A CASE OF *MYCOSIS* THIS BAD IN SOME-ONE SO *YOUNG.*

HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN LIKE THIS? YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HER TO AN *EMERGENCY* ROOM *DAYS* AGO.

I *WANTED* TO, BUT I WAS FIGHTING THE *GOTHAM CITY PD.*

And *then* there was a battle for control of a messianic *terrorist* organization.

YES, I'M SURE IT WAS ALL *VERY* IMPORTANT.

BUT IF YOU *REALLY* CARED ABOUT THIS WOMAN, YOU WOULD HAVE TURNED YOURSELF IN AND FACED THE *CONSEQUENCES.* NOW WE MAY BE *TOO LATE.*

Hnngh--

JANET? THAT'S YOUR NAME, ISN'T IT? I'M *DR. THOMPKINS.*

YOU HAVE WHAT'S CALLED *MYCOSIS.* IT'S AN ADVANCED *FUNGAL INFECTION* THAT'S OVERWHELMING YOUR *IMMUNE SYSTEM.*

Am I going to *die?*

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION, JANET. DOCTORS CAN'T SEE THE *FUTURE.*

BUT THE FACT THAT YOUR BODY HASN'T CLEARED THIS INFECTION ON ITS OWN IS *STRANGE.* THIS IS THE KIND OF THING I'D EXPECT TO SEE IN SOMEONE WHO'S *SEVERELY* IMMUNOCOMPROMISED.

IT ALMOST FEELS... *DELIBERATE.* LIKE SHE'S BEEN GIVEN SOMETHING TO *SUPPRESS* HER NATURAL IMMUNE RESPONSE, ALLOWING *RAMPANT* FUNGAL OVERGROWTH.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IT'S *UNCANNY.*

Maybe I'm ***too quick*** *to latch on to anything that would absolve me of the* ***guilt*** *I feel over Janet's illness.*

YOU MAY BE MORE RIGHT THAN YOU *KNOW.*

But I can't help thinking the good doctor is ***on-to*** *something.*

Not that it makes any difference whose **fault** this is. Janet is still **dying.**

LISTEN-- I CAN'T HELP HER. NOT ***HERE.*** SHE NEEDS TO BE IN ***INTENSIVE CARE.***

BUT--

IF YOU TAKE HER TO ***GOTHAM GENERAL,*** I'LL MAKE SURE THE POLICE STAY AWAY. OUR ***MUTUAL FRIEND*** WILL SEE TO THAT.

MOVING HER IS ***RISKY,*** BUT NOT AS RISKY AS KEEPING HER ***HERE.***

Okay. **Okay.**

LET'S RIG SOME KIND OF ***STRETCHER*** SO WE CAN CARRY JANET THROUGH THE WOODS. WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ***ME,*** HAPPENS--

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO STICK YOUR NECK OUT FOR ***HER?*** A ***TRAITOR?***

MAYBE IT'S ***NOT*** SUCH A MYSTERY WHY SHE'S SO ***SICK,*** GIVEN WHAT SHE'S BEEN UP TO. AND WITH ***WHOM.***

I KNOW BETTER THAN ***ANYBODY*** WHAT MESSING AROUND WITH ***BOTANY EXPERIMENTS*** WILL ***COST*** YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU ***TALKING ABOUT,*** WENDY?

HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW?

JANET IS THE ONE WHO BETRAYED YOU TO THE ***POLICE.***

JANET CUT SOME KIND OF **DEAL** WITH A GLOWY-EYED **STICK WOMAN** IN THE WOODS-- INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR **WEAKNESSES** IN RETURN FOR A **CURE.**

BUT SINCE WE **DEFEATED** THE POLICE AND YOU'RE STILL **FREE,** THE STICK WOMAN DECIDED JANET'S INTEL WASN'T **GOOD** ENOUGH.

SO IT WAS ALL FOR **NOTHING.**

Poor little Janet.

Stick woman. She must mean **Bog Venus.**

It explains so **much.**

I expect Janet to **protest.** *I expect her to be* **offended,** *to insist it's all* **lies.** *But in the end...*

Wait-- it's not what it ***sounds*** like--

--I can explain--

AND YOU **WILL.**

Pam-- please-- if you would just ***listen***--

DON'T CALL ME **PAM.** I'M NOT **PAM** TO YOU ANYMORE.

...she doesn't even bother to **deny** *it.*

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE YOU *TAKING HER?* I THOUGHT WE AGREED TO MOVE HER TO THE *HOSPITAL--*

THAT AGREEMENT IS *OFF.*

THEN *BATMAN* WAS *RIGHT* ABOUT YOU-- DON'T YOU HAVE A *HEART?*

...a *heart?*

I'M NOT *SURE* ANY-MORE. IF I DO, IT DOESN'T *WORK* VERY WELL.

PETER, CAN YOU TAKE *DR. THOMPKINS* HOME TO *GOTHAM*, PLEASE? MAKE SURE SHE GETS THERE *SAFELY.*

ONLY IF YOU *PROMISE* NOT TO DO ANYTHING *RASH.*

THIS IS JANET. *OUR* JANET. WHATEVER SHE'S DONE, SHE'LL HAVE A GOOD REASON, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T *SEE* IT NOW.

PEOPLE *ALWAYS* HAVE *REASONS.*

HEY!

IF *YOU'RE* STILL HERE WHEN I GET BACK, I WILL *ENTOMB* YOU IN A TREE.

BUT *I'M* THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU THE *TRUTH!*

YOU DON'T *CARE* ABOUT THE TRUTH. YOU JUST USE WHAT YOU KNOW TO *HURT* THE PEOPLE YOU CLAIM TO *SERVE.*

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE WAY YOU ABANDONED *BELLA.*

AND I WON'T FORGET *THIS.*

I can feel something growing in my **chest.** Something **tough** and covered in rough bark, like a knot in the trunk of a **tree.**

It has **sap** instead of blood.

It doesn't **beat.**

It just pulls back into itself, like it's preparing for **winter.**

Wh-where are you taking me?

INTO THE **GREEN.**

Nothing can **HURT** me anymore.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN.

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NEXT: DEAD RECKONING!

DC K.O.

#1 PREVIEW

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SCOTT SNYDER

ARTIST
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LETTERER
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

HERE IN THE DARK, IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE IT BEGINS.

HE TELLS HIMSELF IT'S JUST ANOTHER *FIGHT--*

KRAK

--A BRAWL LIKE *COUNTLESS* ONES BEFORE.

HELL, FOR THIS ONE EVERYONE EVEN GOT TO BRING GEAR. KAL-EL BROUGHT THE *KNUCKLES.*

KLANG

HE FORGED THEM IN THE FORTRESS YEARS AGO, AFTER RETURNING FROM THE DEAD.

KNUCKLES WITH MINIATURE SUNS RAGING INSIDE, ANGRY SUNS TAKEN FROM EMPTY UNIVERSES...

HE THOUGHT ABOUT CALLING THEM "DAWNSDAY" KNUCKLES, BUT LOIS SHUT THAT DOWN FAST.

EVEN SO... WITH THEM HE'S STRONGER, FASTER, READY TO *THROW DOWN.*

HE'S FOUGHT TOUGHER FIGHTS THAN THIS. FOUGHT IN OTHER DIMENSIONS, OTHER UNIVERSES, FOUGHT GODS, TITANS...

...WHAT'S *ONE MORE FIGHT?*

AND THEN THE *DOORS OPEN--*

WHAT THE--

TWO SPACES. ONE, TWO.

Whomp, whomp. GO BACK A ROW, CLARK. GREEN IS **KRYPTONITE.**

KRYPTONITE, DIANA?

Seriously?

I DIDN'T MAKE THE RULES!

Oh, look, **"BATMOBILE BOOST."** GO AHEAD THREE SPACES. **NICE!**

WHO MADE THIS THING? GIVE ME THE BOX.

"Malone Entert--" **BRUCE...**

Never heard of it. Just play the game.

I WARNED YOU... CLARK DOESN'T LIKE A GAME UNLESS NO ONE HAS TO LOSE.

Aw, LOSING **BUILDS CHARACTER.**

SO DOES **WINNING.**

Well, I FOR ONE AM GLAD YOU INVITED US. THANKS, LOIS.

OF COURSE. I JUST THOUGHT, YOU NEVER GET TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER. I MEAN, WHEN YOU'RE NOT SAVING THE WORLD.

THANKS, LO. *I'M* GLAD, TOO.

ME TOO.

NICE, **BATPLANE** POWER CARD. MOVE UP... **NINE** SPACES. YOUR ROLL, CLARK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T WE EAT?

FOOD'S STILL COOKING. NICE TRY, THOUGH.

YOU JUST NEED A STRATEGY, CLARK. THE WHOLE GAME IS STRATEGY.

OR YOU COULD STOP ARGUING AND PLAY HARD. WATCH AND LEARN...

TWELVE!

MOVE UP ONE ROW.

THEY PLAY ON. AND AS THEY DO, THEY TALK AS FRIENDS... *FAMILY.* NOT COLLEAGUES OR HEROES.

THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN, JONATHAN, DAMIAN, ELIZABETH...

AN HOUR LATER, THE GAME IS STILL NOT OVER, THOUGH THEY'RE ALL WITHIN A FEW SPACES OF THE WATCHTOWER-- *THE FINISH LINE.*

DIANA IS ABOUT TO ROLL THE WINNING ROLL WHEN LOIS SAYS IT...

GUYS, WHY IS IT SO BRIGHT OUT?

Dear god...

WHAT CLARK SEES OUT THE WINDOW MAKES HIS *BLOOD* RUN *COLD.*

DARKSEID.

THE HEROES' *OLDEST* AND *GREATEST* FOE. MAYBE THE MOST FAMILIAR ENEMY THEY HAVE.

BUT *THIS* DARKSEID HAS BECOME SOMETHING *ELSE*. SOMETHING *MORE*.

HE ISN'T JUST BIGGER, *STRONGER*... HE'S *EVERYTHING*. A UNIVERSE OF POWER GIVEN FORM.

BOOM

EVERYWHERE HE LOOKS, THE CITY BECOMES HIS. NO, CLARK THINKS, NOT *HIS*... IT BECOMES *HIM*. CLARK CAN *SEE* IT HAPPENING.

EVERY PARTICLE, EVERY MOLECULE, EVERY *ATOM* IS OF *DARKSEID*.

BOOM

AS THEY CHARGE HIM, CLARK TELLS HIMSELF THEY'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. THEY'VE FOUGHT UXAS DOZENS OF TIMES AND *WON*...

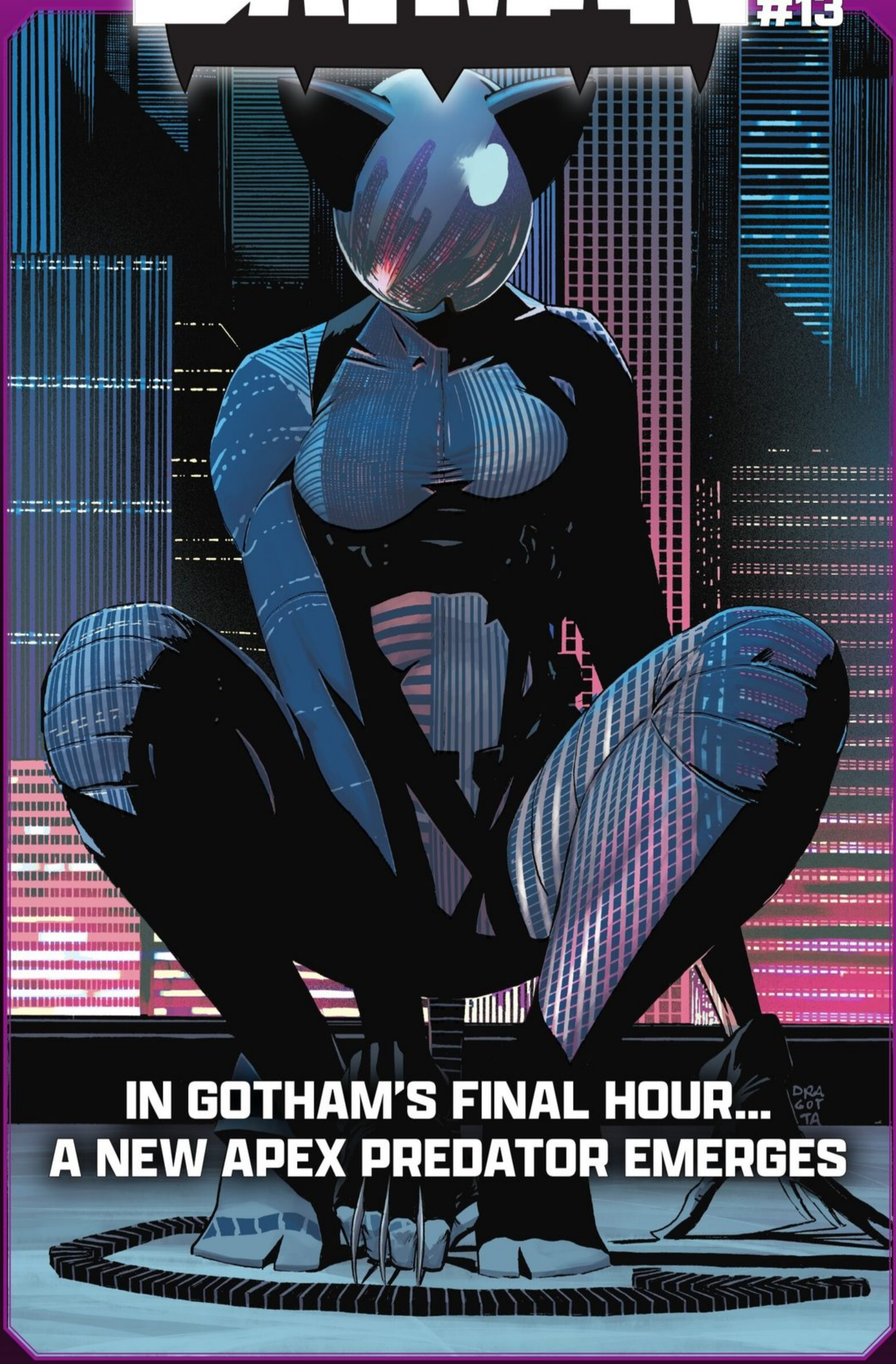
...THIS FIGHT IS LIKE *NOTHING* THEY'VE FACED. *EVER*...

TO BE CONTINUED IN DC KO #1 ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

ALL IN

THE ERA OF
ABSOLUTE CATWOMAN
BEGINS
OCTOBER

ABSOLUTE BATMAN #13



Written by **SCOTT SNYDER** • Art by **NICK DRAGOTTA**

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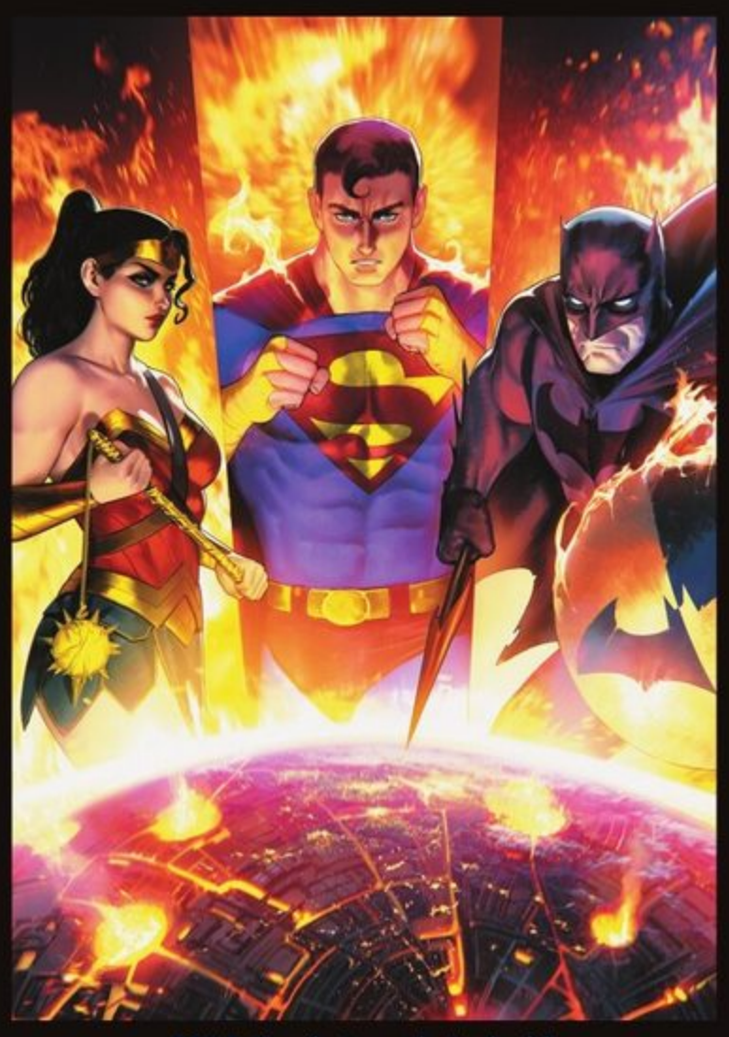
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

A CONVERSATION WITH SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

In 2024, *Absolute Batman* writer Scott Snyder and Superman writer Joshua Williamson gave shape to DC's future in the fateful *DC All In Special* one-shot—the start of the All In era and the birth of the Absolute Universe. One year later, Snyder teams with artist Javi Fernández for *DC K.O.*, a massive, fight-filled, five-issue DC Universe event starting in October and running through March; with Williamson presiding over the tie-in series. In the second half of a conversation between Snyder and Williamson, the friends and frequent collaborators discuss what's at stake in the event and the *who would win?* fun of the story.

Scott Snyder: The whole event at its core is giant fights between your favorite heroes—but not grim-dark. It's really fun! The whole goal of it is to bring you back to that kid joy of who would win in a fight.

Joshua Williamson: We all have these conversations—we go to the comic book store and talk about who would win, and that's what we want to do a story about. We have some surprises; it's not only going to be the characters you're expecting. We're definitely going to have characters that you're not expecting to get into this competition.



DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Noobovich

Snyder: When you die in the tournament, you're out. You turn into a statue, you're put on a shelf, and you lose. You can't become the King Omega. Whoever is the champion, the whole universe bends towards them so they become this giant celestial being.

If you show mercy, if you act in a way that is compassionate, then the Omega energy goes down. The only way is to be merciless. To go all the way.

Williamson: The heroes have to really fight and really push themselves in ways they never have.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Jim Lee and Alex Sinclair

Snyder: Some characters won't know if they can do it, whereas other characters have been waiting for it.

Williamson: Some characters already have plans on how to take out other characters.

There's an emotional core. When we did *Dark Nights: Metal*, it was very much about a Batman story, when we did *Dark Nights: Death Metal* it was a Wonder Woman story, and now we're doing *DC K.O.* and we knew this was going to be a Superman story.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Frank Cho and Sabine Rich

Snyder: I haven't gotten to write Clark in quite a few years. At first, I was pretty reluctant, because there are so many great Superman stories happening right now. The truth is, he was the only character who could really be the hero of this story. The only way to win is to become the thing you hate.

Whoever wins, whoever becomes the King Omega, gets to restore everything on the other side. If they can beat him, they can put everything back the way it was. The question of the event is, is it worth it? Is it worth becoming the thing you hate?

DC K.O. #1 main cover
by Javi Fernández and Alejandro Sánchez

DON'T MISS *DC K.O.* #1, ON SALE OCTOBER!

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